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# Urban District of Reddish

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31st, 1896.

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STOCKPORT:

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# Urban District of Reddish in the County of Lancaster.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1896.

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*To the Urban District Council of Reddish.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Twelfth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District, and in so doing I beg to thank you for the courtesy you have shewn to me in the performance of my duties during the past year.

**District.**—For the purposes of this report I have retained the divisions of the District which I first made use of in 1895. They are :—

**North Reddish**, which comprises all that portion of Reddish lying north of the New Road, extending from Pink Bank Lane on the west to Thornley Lane on the east.



**Mid Reddish**, which comprises the central portion lying between North Reddish, and a line extending due east from the Ashton Branch (formerly intended) of the Canal to the River Tame at Reddish Wood, and from the same branch due west till it intersects Broadstone Road, which then becomes the boundary till it meets the Heaton Norris District. This portion includes Reddish Vale.

**South Reddish** includes the remaining portion which lies south of Mid Reddish.

### Population of the District in July, 1896.

Following my usual custom I have based my estimate of the population on the number of inhabited houses as derived from the rate books.

	Total number of houses.	Inhabited houses.	Estimated population.
SOUTH REDDISH .....	706	624	2908
MID       " .....	737	703	3276
NORTH     " .....	320	318	1482
	<hr/> 1763	<hr/> 1645	<hr/> 7666

In 1895 the number of inhabited houses was 1544, and the estimated population 7200.

All calculations in this report are based on an estimated population of 7600.

**Deaths and Births.**—115 deaths were registered during the year, 57 males and 58 females. The numbers of births were 113 males and 116 females.

**Inquests.**—Inquests were held in 7 cases, and verdicts returned as under, viz. :—Suicide (by hanging) 2, wound, blood poisoning 1, found dead 2, and accidentally suffocated 2.

**Uncertified Deaths.**—One death only was uncertified, the cause being stated as diarrhœa.

Table I. gives the number of births and of deaths at the various age periods in the three districts.

DISTRICT.	Births.	Deaths.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and over.
South .....	99	47	13	5	4	1	16	8
Mid.....	93	56	14	7	3	5	15	12
North .....	37	12	3	0	3	2	2	2

Table II. shows the number and causes of deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	South Reddish.		Mid Reddish.		North Reddish.	
	Under 5 years.	5 years & over.	Under 5 years.	5 years & over.	Under 5 years.	5 years & over.
Scarlet Fever.....	1	1	2	1	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	2	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever .....	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever . .....	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	—	—	1	1	—	—
Diarrhœa, &c.....	3	—	4	1	1	—
Rheumatic Fever .....	—	1	—	—	—	—
Phthisis .....	—	2	1	7	—	2
Bronchitis Pneumonia, &c.....	2	6	2	3	—	3
Heart Disease .....	—	3	—	9	—	2
Injuries .....	1	3	—	1	—	—
All other Diseases.....	0	12	10	10	2	2

Table III. gives the respective mortality rates for the three districts, and for the whole district compared with the two previous years.

District.	Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic D. R.	Phthisis. D. R.	Respiratory.	Infantile.
All Reddish .....	1894	30.42	16.9	3.8	1.4	2.95	152.7
„	1895	32.91	16.52	2.63	1.11	3.47	168.77
„	1896	30.13	15.13	2.76	1.58	2.10	131.00
South Reddish ...	Pop. 2880 „	34.37	16.32	2.43	.63	2.77	131.31
Mid Reddish.....	Pop. 3250 „	28.61	17.02	4.	2.46	1.53	150.53
North Reddish...	Pop. 1470 „	25.17	8.16	.67	1.36	2.04	81.08

**N.B.**—As the populations dealt with in the above table are but small, it is necessary to warn one not to attach undue importance to the rates returned for one year. It is only by collating the statistics for a series of years that anything like a fair comparison can be instituted between the districts. The total death rates for 1895 were—South Reddish 19.03, Mid 15.21, North 14.61.

**Zymotic Diseases and Zymotic Death Rate.**—118 cases of notifiable disease came under observation during the year. In 87 of these cases certificates were sent in by Registered Medical Practitioners in attendance (myself among the number). In the rest I verified the diagnosis by visiting the cases.

Table IV.—Below is a table shewing the distribution of cases.

Disease.	Scarlet fever.		Diphth'ria and memb croup.		Typhoid.		Puerp'ral.		Erysip'las	
Locality.	Under 5 years.	5 years and over.	Under 5.	5 & over.	Under 5.	5 & over.	Under 5.	5 & over.	Under 5.	5 & over.
South Reddish.....	25	24	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	2
Mid „ .....	19	28	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
North „ .....	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

**Scarlet Fever.**—As will be seen from the table, Scarlatina is responsible for most of the notified cases.

This disease has been epidemic in Reddish since *March*. Commencing with 3 cases in South Reddish in *March*, the number of cases increased largely in *May* and *June*—when it reached its maximum severity—and then decreased, until it disappeared in *September*.

In *August* the disease became epidemic in Reddish Green and Reddish Vale. No cases have occurred in Reddish Vale since *October*, but occasional cases still occur in Reddish Green and North Reddish.

The total number of cases was 103, and the number of deaths 5, or a case mortality of about 1 in 20.

Forty-seven houses had each 1 case.

Fourteen „ „ „ 2 cases.

Four „ „ „ 3 „

Three „ „ „ 4 „ or upwards.

**Mode of Dealing with these and other Infectious cases.**—In the absence of an Isolation Hospital, and of compulsory powers to remove patients to it, the control we are able to exercise over the extension of an epidemic is limited. My experience shows that it is impossible to isolate infectious cases in the prevailing type of 4-roomed houses.

The method of disinfection practiced has recently been much improved. Unwashable goods, as bedding, etc., are now disinfected by steam, arrangements having been made with the Stockport Corporation for removing and disinfecting such articles.

Rooms are first fumigated with sulphur, and afterwards the paper is stripped off and the surfaces washed with chlorine water.

In all cases where the affected person has attended school information is given to the school authorities, and the



children from infected houses are not allowed to return to school without a certificate from a medical man that the danger of infection is over. I have to thank the masters of the various schools for the ready information and assistance they have always given me.

I have made frequent and regular inquiries at the schools, and in some cases I have examined children attending *school* from infected streets—and it has only been in one or two instances that suspicion has *attached* to the schools as being possible sources of infection.

**Typhoid Fever.**—Sanitary defects were reported on with regard to privy accommodation in three of the nine cases of typhoid fever that occurred during the year. In three of the cases (including one fatal) there is every ground for believing that the disease was contracted outside the district.

**Measles.**—A localised epidemic of measles occurred in North Reddish in March—over 20 cases came under observation—but the disease speedily subsided. The other cases of zymotic disease call for no special notice this year.

**Infantile Mortality.**—There has been a considerable falling off in the deaths of infants under one year.

In my annual report for 1895 I drew the attention of your Council to the increased infantile mortality during recent years—and stated what in my opinion were some of the causes. By a resolution of the Council I was authorised to obtain for circulation some simple “rules on the care of infants.”

Dr. Paget, Medical Officer of Health for Salford, kindly allowed me to make use of his recently issued card on the subject, and this, with slight alterations, was distributed to every house in the district.

**Sanitary Work.**—The returns of your Sanitary Inspector make the text for my remarks on the work done in the district.

Mr. LUDLOW reports as follows:—

Twenty-eight new houses, one new works and three additions to existing works have been completed or commenced during the year; 203 houses and one school were connected with the new main sewer, and a length of 437 yards of private streets was paved and sewered in 1896.

Notices were served in the following cases:—

Defective or delapidated privies belonging to 89 houses.

Overcrowding, 1 house.

Poultry kept on premises, 2 houses.

Defective gutters, spouts, &c., belonging to 10 houses.

Number of premises disinfected, 71 houses.

Six back to back houses converted to through houses,—  
3 houses.

Dangerous buildings and walls, 2 cases.

Offensive manure heap, 1 case.

Buildings improperly used as slaughter houses, 2 cases.

Defective or unsuitable cowsheds, 5 cases.

Improvements in sanitary accommodation of factories and workshops (completed or in progress), 5 cases.

Samples of foods and drugs, &c, taken (milk only), 6 cases.

It has not been found necessary to take legal action in any of the above.

(Signed)

JOHN LUDLOW.

**Sewage Disposal.**—The outfall works are now approaching completion, and part of the plant is already in use.

The installation consists of—

(a) Two circular settling tanks, from which the sludge is forced by the pressure of the superincumbent sewage.

(b) Six filtering beds—of which polarite is the main element, means are provided by which the sewage is allowed to flow on the filters at regular intervals—and, in such a manner, that the surface of the filtering medium is exposed to the action of the atmosphere for 15 minutes out of every 20.

(c) The channels from the filtering beds are so arranged as to allow of the effluent being further purified by irrigation over the surrounding land.

The work of connecting house drains, etc., with the new system is being pushed on rapidly.

**Privy Accommodation.**—It gives me pleasure to be able to report that decided action has been taken to prevent the perpetuation of the old style of privy pit.

Although it has not been thought practicable, in the present state of the Reddish District (financially and otherwise), to permit only of water-closets in connection with new houses, and to replace insanitary conveniences in old ones, yet it has been resolved by the Council that all new privies shall be built in exact accordance with the Bye Laws. To facilitate this, and to make builders and property owners familiar with these Bye Laws, circulars have been printed, showing model plans of such structures, and giving extracts from the Bye Laws bearing on the same.

**Factories and Workshops.**—Our observations with regard to cubic space, ventilation, cleanliness, etc., go to show that the Factories and Workshops in this District are well adapted for the work carried on in them. In respect of their sanitary accommodation, I have to report that water-



closets have been substituted for other accommodation in two factories. The privy accommodation in connection with one workshop has been altered and improved, while in two of the largest workshops entirely new sanitary accommodation is being made.

There are still a few of these buildings where the type of privy or closet is antiquated and insanitary.

**Smoke.**—Complaints have been made in one or two instances as to nuisance resulting from the emission of dense smoke, but hitherto no time limit has been fixed, and, therefore, no observations have been made.

**Bakehouses.**—These are nine in number. They have been regularly inspected and are kept clean.

**Slaughter-houses.**—These premises are registered and inspected at regular intervals. While inspecting the district in company of Mr. Ludlow, in November, we discovered two places which had been newly opened as slaughter-houses without notice having been given to the Sanitary Authority. As the premises were not in accordance with requirements they were ordered to be closed.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—The following report presented by the Council in November will best explain the work done. The regulations in force have been re-issued, printed on stout cardboard suitable for hanging up on the premises. It is satisfactory to see that many of the premises in default are already being improved.

### **REPORT :—**

GENTLEMEN,

The Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order of 1885, throw upon every Urban District Council the duty of supervising the milk trade in their district, and of carrying out certain regulations prescribed by the Orders. Under Section 6 of the above, it devolves on the Urban District Council to keep a register of cowkeepers, dairymen, and purveyors of milk, and this register must be corrected and revised from time to time. It is also the duty of the Urban District Council to give public notice from time to time of registration being required.

Section 11 states that it is unlawful for any Cowkeeper, etc., to use or permit to be used a milk shop or milk store as a sleeping apartment or for any purpose incompatible with the proper preservation of the cleanliness of the milk store or milk shop and of the milk vessels and milk therein, etc.

Section 12 states that it shall not be lawful for any Cowkeeper, etc., to keep swine in any building used by him for keeping cows or in any milk store, etc.

Section 13 provides for the making of Regulations for various purposes, and the Regulations—copies of which are

now laid before you were made and adopted by the Reddish Local Board on October 11th, 1894, and received the sanction of the Local Government Board. Copies of these regulations have been distributed to all cowkeepers in the district.

With the intention of preparing a new register, Mr. Ludlow and myself have together visited all the cowsheds and milk shops in the district.

There are 24 cowkeepers and two milk shops.

Over 200 milking cows are kept, but very little milk is stored; the practice being for the retailer to wait for and carry off the milk for distribution as soon as the process of milking is completed.

So far as we are aware, butter is made regularly by only one cowkeeper, and no cheese is made in the district.

In accordance with the regulations, our inspection has been particularly directed to the following points:—

- (1) The provision of 800 c. ft. of free air space for each cow. Very few of the premises inspected meet this requirement. The average cubic space ranging only from 300 to 450 c. ft. Most of the cowsheds are too low.

To get 800 c. ft. each cow requires 100 ft. of floor space with 8 ft. in height, or the height may with advantage be raised to 9 ft. or 10 ft. when less floor area will suffice.

- (2) LIGHTING AND VENTILATION.—In the older buildings especially the provisions for the above are entirely inadequate. No permanent windows are placed, and the ventilation is either indirect or by means of the doors only.

There should be such a number of windows in the cowsheds as to admit of easy inspection of all parts of the premises in the day time without artificial light.

The means of ventilation should be such that there is a constant supply of fresh air sufficient for the needs of the animals, and also means of removing vitiated air without causing draughts. Where the premises are fairly lofty, cross ventilation by means of permanent openings on each side of the building will suffice, in other cases extract shafts should be provided, opening in the centre of the ceiling, and all these openings should communicate directly with the external air.

- (3) WATER SUPPLY.—The purity of the water supplied for drinking is of prime importance. In some of the



places inspected the only supply is from pits, which receive the surface water from the surrounding land.

As this is liable to be organically polluted by manure and the like, I consider it advisable that analyses of supplies should be made, and I would advise that where possible the public supply should be utilised for cattle.

- (4) CHANNELS AND DRAINS.—The floors of these places are in the older cowsheds very irregular and badly paved, so that it is impossible to keep them clean. In order to comply with Regulations 5 and 6 it is absolutely necessary that the channels, &c., should be concreted or grouted with cement and laid with a regular fall.

There should not be any openings to drains on the premises.

- (5) CLEANLINESS OF PREMISES.—Generally speaking, there is much fault to be found under this head. Considering that cows' milk is the main food supply for young children, it would appear necessary that every care should be taken to keep the cattle and their habitations clean.

This is not, however, usually the case, one constantly finds the walls and floors of the sheds coated with dried or moist excrement, and the hind quarters of the cattle are in the same condition.

In the process of milking, some of this matter must of necessity be conveyed to the milk.

It seems to me that at least as much care should be taken of cows and cowsheds as is shown in the grooming and housing of carriage horses.

In Denmark the cows are regularly groomed, and the source and condition of the milk supply *are* directly supervised by the Government officials.

- (6) INSPECTION OF CATTLE.—The Regulations make mention of the inspection of cattle, and considering how liable cows are to suffer from tuberculosis and other diseases which are communicable to man, I think it would be a good thing if regular inspection of milking cows were made by a competent person, so as to prevent the distribution of milk from unhealthy animals.

- (7) UTENSILS.—It gives me pleasure to be able to report that in every instance we found the cans and measures kept scrupulously clean. I think, however, more care should be exercised in the

storing of these things. A dirty confined back yard or washhouse is certainly not a suitable place for keeping vessels used for milk, which is of all articles of food perhaps the most liable to receive and transmit the germs of disease.

Some of the buildings inspected were in such a delapidated and insanitary condition as to be entirely unsuitable for the housing of cattle. A description of all the premises examined will be found in the New Register or in my diary.

In this Report I have not considered it desirable to mention specially any of the places visited, as I trust the defects of premises and breaches of regulations discovered will be remedied by the owners as the result of this inspection.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

T. HANSON SMITH.

**Housing of Working Classes.**—Six back to back houses, condemned as being unfit for habitation, have during the year been converted into three useful four-roomed houses. These were the only back to back houses in the district.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act, &c.**—Six samples of milk were purchased and forwarded to the County Analyst.

With one exception, all were pure and of good quality. It is intended rigidly to enforce the provisions of these Acts during 1897.

The above Report gives a fair account of the Sanitary work done during 1896.

As indicating the lines on which beneficial action may be taken in the future I would mention—

- (a) The provision of means for isolating cases of dangerous infectious diseases.
  - (b) Greater attention to the paving, draining, and Cleansing of the surfaces of passages and yards at the backs of houses.
  - (c) The establishment of scavenging operations on a more systematic basis.
- And (d) The improvement of the sanitary accommodation in factories, &c., where it is at present antiquated and insanitary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

T. HANSON SMITH,

January 31st, 1897.

Medical Officer of Health.